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TELEGRAM

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AN: D790077-0483

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00883 180043Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 150-00 /012 W

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R 161200Z FEB 79
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2798
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE WASHINGTON

RECEIVED 10/1/79 10:15 AM

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E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, CE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE EXPRESSES REGRET ON DEATH OF
AMBASSADOR DUBS

1. AT THE START OF A PRIVATE INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS SOME POINTS OF SRI LANKAN HISTORY, PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE EXPRESSED HIS DEEP DISTRESS AT AMBASSADOR DUBS' DEATH IN KABUL. "WHAT A SAD COMMENTARY IT IS ON OUR TIMES THAT SUCH THINGS CAN HAPPEN," HE SAID. HE ASKED ABOUT AMBASSADOR DUBS' WIFE AND FAMILY AND SHOWED RELIEF THAT SHE WAS SAFELY IN THE U.S. AND HAD AN INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL LIFE OF HER OWN.

2. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS, THE AMBASSADOR, DRAWING ON WIRELESS FILE MATERIAL AND IRAN SITREPS AS APPROPRIATE, DESCRIBED THE ATTACK ON THE EMBASSY, AND THE SUCCESSFUL INTERVENTION OF THE KHOMEINI REGIME TO INDUCE ATTACKERS TO LEAVE. THE PRESIDENT BRIEFLY SPECULATED ON THE UNCERTAIN PROSPECTS FOR KHOMEINI'S SUCCESS IN ESTABLISHING ORDER. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED KHOMEINI'S APPARENT VIGOR IN DEALING WITH THE ATTACK ON THE EMBASSY AS A GOOD OMEN THOUGH THE FUTURE REMAINED HIGHLY UNCERTAIN.

3. THE AMBASSADORS OF EGYPT, PAKISTAN, GREAT BRITAIN,

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CANADA AND FRANCE WERE PROMPT TO EXPRESS THEIR

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REGRETS AND THE SWEDISH CHARGE, WHO HAD KNOWN
SPIKE IN MOSCOW, SENT A NOTE.
WRIGGINS

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